



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED FOR I-405 CORRIDOR DRAFT EIS**

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), in cooperation with King County, Sound Transit, Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration, has announced an extension of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the I-405 Corridor Program. The extension is from October 9, 2001, to October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

"This extension responds to public requests and in light of last week's tragic events in New York City and Washington D.C., it will give the public more time to review the document," stated Jim Leonard, FHWA project team member for the I-405 Corridor Program. "We want to ensure that people have had adequate time to review the information and provide valuable input," he said. WSDOT released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the I-405 Corridor Program in August.

The I-405 Corridor Program is a WSDOT sponsored, community based partnership. Decision making is guided by three committees: a Citizen Committee of people representing a wide range of interests all along the corridor, a Steering Committee of senior level staff, and an Executive Committee of federal, state and local elected and appointed officials from agencies and jurisdictions with an interest in the corridor. The I-405 corridor Program will define the transportation system east of Lake Washington for the next 20 years and is the result of two years of unprecedented cooperation between all the cities, legislative leaders and agencies in the corridor.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at public libraries in the I-405 corridor. Call WSDOT, (206) 464-5878, to request an electronic CD version. A summary of the Draft EIS is available on the I-405 Corridor Program's web page: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/I-405](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/I-405). Comments may be e-mailed to: [i405@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:i405@wsdot.wa.gov). Written comments should be submitted to: WSDOT c/o I-405 Program, 401 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S., #300, Seattle, WA 98104-2887

The public is encouraged to review the Draft EIS and provide comments and suggestions regarding the impacts, alternatives and mitigation measures identified. Comments received will be included in the official record of the environmental review process.

The Executive Committee will review public feedback and the outcomes of the analysis from the EIS before a decision is made on a preferred alternative for I-405. A final solution will be selected this fall, based on the EIS findings and public input.

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